

Focus on Flooding

Many homes, businesses and farms are in harm's way if the Green River experiences serious flooding.

Residents, businesses and farms below the Howard Hanson Dam in the Green River Valley should prepare now for a higher risk of flooding.



The higher risk is due to water seeping more rapidly through an earthen bank next to the dam after record high water last winter. Until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can make repairs, it must limit the amount of flood water it stores behind the dam.

If heavy and prolonged rain occurs this flood season (roughly October through March), many homes and businesses in the valley that don't typically see flood water—including parts of Auburn, Kent, Renton, South Seattle and Tukwila—could be flooded.

Evacuations in some communities are possible. Key transportation routes and transit service could be disrupted, and power outages and sewer back-ups are possible even outside the immediate flood zone.

Prepare now to help keep your family and property safe when the rains come.



How to prepare for a flood

1. **Sign up to receive automated flood alerts for the Green River and other King County rivers at www.kingcounty.gov/flood.**
2. **Make an emergency plan** and assemble an emergency kit.
3. **Buy flood insurance now**; it takes 30 days for a policy to take effect. Review your current policy; a standard insurance policy will not cover flood damage. Contact your insurance agent or visit www.floodsmart.gov.
4. **Purchase an inexpensive AM radio** or NOAA weather radio with batteries in case of power outages for urgent news, day and night.
5. **Monitor area news** media for information if severe weather is predicted.
6. **Listen for alerts about evacuation routes** or visit www.kingcounty.gov/floodplans for the latest evacuation route information.
7. **Monitor local road conditions** and obey closure signs.
8. **Take medications and supplies with you**, for those with medical needs.
9. **Be ready to relocate animals and livestock** out of harm's way.
10. **Minimize flood damage:**
 - Store valuables and electronics higher on the ground floor, on the second story or in your attic.
 - Store chemicals above possible flood levels; recycle or dispose of them at the Wastemobile at the Auburn Supermall.
 - Learn how to use sandbags and locate where you can buy or get them ahead of time if needed for flood fighting.
 - Move vehicles and equipment to high ground before flood waters rise.
 - Keep storm drains free of leaves and other debris.
 - Know who to call and how to protect yourself if flooding leads to sewer overflows into homes and businesses.

Howard Hanson Dam Fact Sheet

www.nws.usace.army.mil/
(Click on Howard Hanson Dam Pool Restriction)

Green River Valley Flood Safety

www.kingcounty.gov/floodplans

Flood planning and response resources

- ◆ **American Red Cross serving King and Kitsap counties**
206-323-2345 or 360-377-3761
www.seattleredcross.org
- ◆ **Flood warning/watch information**
King County Flood Warning Center
206-296-4535 or 800-768-7932
Staffed 24 hours during a flood to answer questions and provide information.
- ◆ **King County Flood Warning information line**
206-296-8200 or 800-945-9263
Recorded flood phase information for area rivers.
- ◆ **King County Flood Warning System**
www.kingcounty.gov/flood
Real-time flood gage data and flood phase information.
- ◆ **Regional Public Information Network**
www.rpin.org
Sign up to receive updates on flooding and other emergencies.
- ◆ **National Weather Service Forecast Office**
www.wrh.noaa.gov/sew/
Find out if heavy rain is forecast, and if the Green River is under a flood watch.
- ◆ **Social media**
twitter.com/kcalerts
Sign up to receive updated flood information via real-time “tweets.”
- ◆ **How to prepare for a flood**
www.kingcounty.gov/floodplans
- ◆ **National Flood Insurance Program**
888-379-9531
www.floodsmart.gov
- ◆ **Emergency sandbag information**
(open during flooding)
206-296-4535 or 800-945-9263
- ◆ **3 Days 3 Ways**
www.3days3ways.org
- ◆ **Take Winter By Storm**
www.takewinterbystorm.org
- ◆ **Sewage overflows**
www.kingcounty.gov/SewageSpills
- ◆ **Metro Transit disruptions**
www.kingcounty.gov/metro
- ◆ **King County Road 24/7 Helpline**
206-296-8100 or 1-800 KC ROADS
- ◆ **King County Road Alert**
www.kingcounty.gov/roadalert
- ◆ **Hazardous Waste Disposal (house or business)**
206-296-4692
www.govlink.org/hazwaste



City flood information

- ◆ **City of Auburn**
http://www.auburnwa.gov/Emergency/disaster/Green_River_and_Howard_Hanson_Dam_Information.asp
- ◆ **City of Kent**
<http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/emergencymanagement/index.aspx?id=2636>
- ◆ **City of Renton**
<http://rentonwa.gov/government/default.aspx?id=26157>
- ◆ **City of Tukwila**
<http://www.ci.tukwila.wa.us/headlines/flood/AreYouReadyforaFlood.pdf>
- ◆ **King County Employee Information**
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/employees/HumanResources/Flood.aspx>

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